

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The indication that claims 4 and 10 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, these claims have been amended into independent form to place claims 4-10 in condition for allowance (less relevant limitations from claim 1 being omitted when amending claims 4 and 10 into independent form). Consideration and allowance of amended claims 4-10 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated by FUSSELL 4,023,071. Claim 1 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 includes, among other features, a fast-blow in short circuit Zener diode lightning arrestor and a varistor connected in parallel. FUSSELL does not disclose this type of Zener diode and thus amended claims 1-3 avoid the rejection under §102.

FUSSELL discloses that the Zener device (TransZorb device 40) appear as an open circuit at voltages below breakdown voltage and as a very low impedance at voltages above the breakdown voltage (column 4, lines 39-59). This is not a fast-blow in short circuit Zener diode. Further, it is noted that

varistor 30 absorbs sufficient energy to prevent damage to the TransZorb device (sic) 40 (column 5, lines 10-25), thus there is no motivation to provide a fast-blow in short circuit Zener diode in the FUSSELL device.

New claim 11 is directed to a device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line that includes a Zener diode and a varistor arranged in parallel, where the Zener diode and varistor have characteristics so that when a voltage at the first connection terminal of the varistor reaches an avalanche value of the Zener diode, the device continues to conduct current until a blow-out power of the Zener diode is reached. Support for this is found at page 9. lines 8-14. FUSSELL does not disclose or suggest that a device for protecting against voltage surges have a parallel-connected Zener diode and varistor with characteristics that meet this definition. Accordingly, the new claims also avoid the rejection of record and their allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

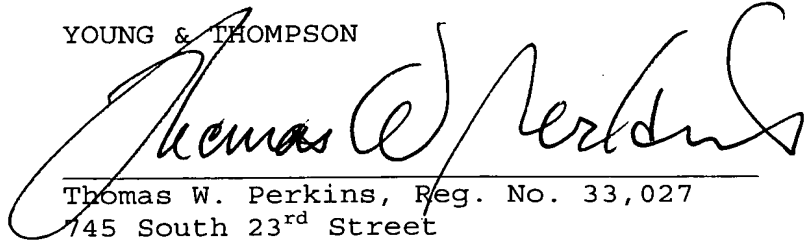
Please charge the fee of \$43 for the extra independent claim added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates it from the printed contact information below.

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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